ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY COUNCILS
796 Broad Street
Newark 2, N. J.

Meeting

Wednesday, February 6, 1957 8:00 P. M. YM-YWCA, 600 Broad Street

Mrs. R. Neal Owens, President, Presiding

INTRODUCTION: Mrs. Owens called upon the presidents of the local councils to introduce their delegations. The following persons made introductions: Mr. Winters of Clinton Hill, Mr. Spratt of Roseville, Mr. Chinoy of Wesquahic, Mr. Tompkins of Central, Mr. Dunn of Vailsburg, and Mr. Zeller of North Newark. Mrs. Owens then introduced Mrs. Wildebush from the Ironbound Community Council, a newly organized group, who introduced members of the Ironbound Council present.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written, having been mailed to all members.

CLEAN UP - PAINT UP WEEK: Mr. Meeker of the Junior Chamber of Commerce was introduced, and he presented several committee chairmen from that organization. The Newark group has two hundred members, and its projects include "Clean up-Paint up", Boys' Club work, and other youth work. The organization would like to assist the Associated Community Councils in a coordinated, city-wide Clean-up Paint up Campaign. The Junior Chamber of Commerce would assist by publicizing, judging, and coordinating. The high point of the drive would probably be reached in the week of May 20-25. The appropriate divisions of the city government are in whold-hearted cooperation. Mr. Meeker received questions concerning various phases of the work. The J.C.C. will mail circulars and perform other coordinating functions, and will anticipate receiving notice of a block selected by each local council.

Mr. Spratt moved that the Associated Community Councils endorse the program and recommend to its members that they contact the J.C.C. and participate in the campaign. The motion was seconded by Mr. Winters. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Bergen of Ironbound stated that what we are engaged in is a fight for the survival of the city, and that a one-week or one-month campaign would be inadequate. This fact was recognized by all present. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The president then requested the treasurer's report. First Mr. Feldman gave Mr. Busse's report on the ACTION funds to the effect that of eight hundred ninety-one dollars realized on ticket sales, the councils sold two hundred ninety-eight dollars' worth and the cooperating organizations sold the remainder. Mr. Holman, the treasurer, then distributed to the councils checks in the amounts realized on their ticket sales. He reported a balance of five hundred seventy-two dollars and eighty-nine cents. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Mrs. Owens then called for discussion on the disposition of the funds remaining, keeping in mind the fact that the Associated Community Councils and the Council of Social Agencies have a continuing program of aiding new councils and operating the city-wide organization. Mr. Holman expressed a wish that a generous contributiom be made to the Council of Social Agencies.

Mrs. Illingworth expressed the opinion that it would be inappropriate to make a contribution to the Council of Social Agencies at this time. Mr. Melillo expressed the opinion that the funds should be retained for organizational work and a letter of thanks sent to the Council of Social Agencies. His sentiments were echoed by Mr. Zeller. Mr. Tompkins stated that some of the funds should be

distributed among the several member councils. Mr. Melillo moved that the funds be retained; Miss Russell seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Tompkins re-stated his feeling. Mr. Spratt raised the question of making funds available to member councils upon request. Mrs. Golat expressed the opinionthat some formula should be set up for management of funds. Mr. Drechsler stated the position of the Roseville group and explained the response to the ACTION film and the lack of emphasis upon funds. Mr. Melillo re-stated his motion with the proviso that any member council may request up to fifty dollars in the callendar year 1957 to assist with its local work.

DUPLICATING FACILITIES: Mrs. Golat mentioned the need of all local councils for duplicating facilities. Mr. Feldman stated that if Neighborhood Community Councils would prepare stencils, furnish paper, the Council of Social Agencies mimeograph machine would be made available for their use on a scheduled basis.

CLINTON HILL REDEVELOPMENT: Mr. Winters described the redevelopment program in Clinton Hill. Lending institutions have already agreed to assist in the program. Involved are school facilities, play areas, traffic control, transportation facilities, etc. He expressed the idea that the official city departments must prove good faith in assisting the area with its program. He referred particularly to the site of the former Jewish Children's Home on Clinton Avenue. Mrs. Fred Lacy reported on Vailsburg's practice of asking the city every year to designate vacant lands for city purposes. Mr. O'Brien solicited the support of the Associated Councils for obtaining that land for community purposes. Mrs. Golat stated that the site practically must be saved for community purposes if federal assistance is to be secured for Clinton Hill and for subsequent redevelopment in the rest of the city. Mr. Hallett mentioned that additional assistance should be provided for the city's traffic engineer, Mr. Cyr, so that his office could respond better to citizens' requests and communications.

Mr. Dunn moved that the A.C.C. go on record as favoring the city's obtaining the site in question for recreational purposes. He re-stated the motion to the effect that we ask the city to consider the purchase of the site for recreational purposes; this motion was seconded by Mr. Tompkins. Mr. Chinoy suggested that a committee from A.C.C. work with the C.H.N.C. to study the situation. Mr. Spratt raised the question of cooperative housing for the site, the question having been raised in the Newark Citizen's Housing Council. Mr. Drechsler stated that Clinton Hill's problem is our first opportunity for concerted action. He stated that representatives from all member councils should serve on a committee to meet with city officials. Further statements for support were made by Mr. Hallett and Mrs. Golat. Mr. Bergen stated that probably other properties should be added to the site. Mr. Chinoy made a statement in favor of the program.

Mr. Hallett offered the following substitute motion which was seconded and passed: - that the Associated Community Councils of Newark express their welcome and endorsement of the effort to develop the fourteen-block area in Clinton Hill in the experimental program under Section 220 of the F.H.S. as an important step in the renewal of our city, and express concern that the plan submitted by the city to the F.H.A. authorities give careful consideration to the use of the property at 534 Clinton Avenue and the meeting of recreational needs of the area.

Mr. Chinoy suggested that the president appoint a committee representing all councils to cooperate with the C.H.N.C. on the redevelopment project. The suggestion was favorably received.

IRONBOUND COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Mrs. Owens called the attention of the group to our constitutional provisions for membership.

Upon a motion by Mr. Zeller, seconded by Mr. Holman, the Ironbound Community Council was accepted into membership by a unanimous vote. Mrs. Wildebush will report this action to her group.

SOUTH WARD HOME OWNER'S AND TENANTS LEAGUE: Mr. Feldman then reported on communications from Mrs. Frances Ford of the South Ward Home-owners' Tenants' League. Since the South Ward, a political sub-division of the city, includes both the Clinton Hill and Weequahic areas, a meeting of interested parties was held at which no decision was reached. Mr. Chinoy reported further on the failure. Mr. Winters added that perhaps the definition of a community council in the constitution should be strengthened. Mrs. Owens reported on the willingness of C.H.N.C. and W.C.C. to observe boundaries if Mrs. Ford would agree to any; this she refused to do.

Mr. O'Brien proposed an amendment for Article IV, Section 1.(Note: Copy of this amendment is enclosed) Mrs. Flagg stated that the present application must be treated in the light of the existing constitutional provision, even though we may need a better statement.

It was moved by Mr. Hallett, seconded by Mr. Spratt, and passed that the application be rejected on the grounds that this organization in our judgment does not fulfill more adequately the functions of a community council than do the two councils which now represent in the Associated Community Councils the geographical area claimed by the League.

DUES: The president stated that dues were payable. It was moved by Mr. Hallett, seconded by Mr. Flagg, and passed that dues be five dollars this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mrs. Owens asked that each council president submit the name of its committee member to work with Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council to Mr. Feldman. .....The next meeting will feature an exchange of ideas on activities in the several communities.....Mr. Winters called attention to the February 11th meeting at Hopewell Baptist Church at which a speaker from Tallahassee, Florida will appear.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Alma Flagg